Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 17 Jan., 1864. 1865

My Dear Garrison,

I was greatly disappointed when I heard that you were not coming to New York last Sunday, and still more sorry to hear that you were ill. It was an oversight on my part that I did not write you early last week, inviting you to come to our house to lodge if you should find it convenient

to pass a night here on your
way to Philadelphia. When
I first heard that you were
coming, I thought I should
learn your plans through Wendell, ~~you~~
and thinking that he would
have the first claim on your
society while here, I overlooked
my own duty in the premises,
not reflecting that he would
probably be absent at the
time of your arrival, &c.
that, if here, he might not be
able to offer you shelter where
he boards. It was not till
Friday that I became fully
sensible of the true state of the

case, and then I sought to ~~send~~ avert
~~only~~ the consequences of my neg-
lect & sending you a telegram.
If you had come Saturday night,
we could have lodged you
comfortably, and Mrs. Lavin,
as well as Mrs. Johnson and
myself, would have given
you a warm welcome.

Our colored friends have
sent me a notice, for the Standard
of this week, that you are to
speak at the Cooper Institute
next Tuesday evening, and I have
written an editorial paragraph
referring to the fact. Wendell
and I have had a talk, however,
and we both fear there is some
mistake in the matter. It does

not seem quite probable, though possible,
that you would agree to speak
here on the very evening next
preceding that of the Sub-
scription Festival. But if you
are indeed coming, I beg you
to consider our invitation open
to you, and to give us as
much time as you can. If you
can come as early as Saturday,
so much the better, but pray
tell me when to look for
your arrival. Or, if the
announcement of our colored
friends is not authorized,
telegraph me to-morrow, that
I may set the matter right in
the Standard.

Yours, hastily,

Rives Johnson